

HO-10

Villa de Speranza (New Year's Gift)

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 05-03-2004

HO-10
Villa de Speranza
Glenwood
Private

18th & 19th Century

A log cabin on the property may date from 1730, while a one room stone house with a date of 1788 on the Keystone of the fireplace is incorporated into the overall L shaped plan of the house which has been added to from time to time. A five bay wide, one room deep, two and a half story, gabled roof (running east-west) brick covered with stucco house faces north with brick chimneys inset into its east and west walls. A central hall is connected by north and south entrance doors, whose north entrance has a cross and open bible paneled door surmounted by a nine lite transom and flanked by three vertical side lites. The entire north facade is covered by a two story open porch supported by six square posts. This early nineteenth century house is connected to the old stone kitchen by a two and a half story connector. Recent two story additions lie west and south of the old stone house forming an interesting and intriguing building complex which manages to sustain a certain degree of integrity and presents a charming architectural composite. Flag stone walks, fine stone retaining walls and lovely boxwood as well as its many surrounding trees add to the unity of the composition.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

1. NAME					
COMMON:					
Villa de Speranza					
AND/OR HISTORIC:					
2. LOCATION					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
New Year's Gift, Route 97, Roxbury Mills Road					
CITY OR TOWN:					
Glenwood					
STATE			COUNTY:		
Maryland					
3. CLASSIFICATION					
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District	<input type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private		<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress		<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious			
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific			
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY					
OWNER'S NAME:					
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Della Ratta					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
New Year's Gift					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		
Glenwood			Maryland		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION					
Tax Map #21, p. 131 580/688 9.96 Acres.					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:					
Hall of Records					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
Howard County Courthouse					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE		
Ellicott City			Maryland		
			21043		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):					
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS					
TITLE OF SURVEY:					
Howard County Historic Sites Inventory					
DATE OF SURVEY:					
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:					
Maryland Historical Trust					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
21 State Circle					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		
A			Maryland		
			21401		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION			
CONDITION	(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair
	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)		(Check One)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
<p>DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE</p> <p>Villa de Speranza has been built in several stages. It is believed that the log cabin west of the house(see Plan) dates from the 1730's. A date of 1788 on the keystone of the fireplace in the old kitchen(see Sect.A) dates this part of the house, originally used as a kitchen. It is three bays wide and one bay deep with central rectangular batten wood door located on the east wall. Its gabled roof runs north-south. A first floor rectangular double-hung window with six-over-six lites rests in the north bay of this section, while a rectangular first floor double-hung window with six-over-three lites lies in its south bay. A single one and a half story room lies above with supporting roof beams exposed and a central rectangular window lying in the east wall. A two bay wide, two bay deep, dining room (1st floor)-master bedroom (2nd floor) addition with intersecting gable roof(running east-west) springs from the west wall of this early part of the house. A 1st floor commode located on the east side of the large fireplace on the south wall of Section A may have afforded space for an interior one-way staircase originally, but this is only conjecture.</p> <p>Lying north of this single room is the main body of the house built shortly after this. It is a five bay wide, two bay deep, two and a half story brick covered with stucco gabled roof (running east-west) structure with central north and south entrances and hall. Wide brick chimneys are set into its east and west wall. Fenestration is rectangular, double-hung with six-over-six lites, proportionally scaled and vertically aligned. The east and west walls of the house hold two four lite casement windows. The east wall holds; in addition, a first and second floor window, similar to those described with a one lite basement window, in the south bay, and a gabled roof enclosed basement entrance in the north bay.</p> <p>The central doorway is an open bible and cross paneled rectangular wooden door surmounted by a nine lite transom & flanked by 3 vertical side lites. The central second floor window above the entrance is flanked by vertical double-hung windows with two-over-two vertical lites. A two story flat roofed porch with balustrade is supported by six square pillars and runs along the entire north elevation. The south elevation holds two first and second floor windows in its two west bays and a first and second floor entrance on to a screened-in porch and second floor terrace respectively.</p> <p>At a very early stage in the development of this house the kitchen was connected to the main house by what is now called the music room. It is a two and a half story high, two bay wide, one room deep, gabled roof structure whose west wall holds a rectangular cross and open bible wood-paneled entrance in the north bay and six-over-six lite window in the south bay.</p> <p>Two second floor rectangular six-over-six lite windows lie in its east and west wall. A triangular one story addition lies in the northwest corner (there is also a square brickchimney located here) of the porch which connects the master bedroom suite to the second floor hall of the main house. A 12 lite door rests in this corner which leads on to the second floor terrace connecting the master bedroom to the hall of Section B (See Plan). A single gabled roof central dormer rests in the roof of the east and west elevations. It holds a rectangular, double-hung window with six-over-six lites surmounted by a closed pediment and flanked by pilasters.</p>			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Villa de Speranza
Description
Cont.

The interior is of interest for when this connector was built, it may have been completely separated from the upstairs, of Section B. Its north wall appears to lie flush with the south wall of Section B (See Plan) and it has its own interior staircase on its north wall. A difference in the pine floor of the central staircase of Section B and the triangular addition which creates a connecting hall also adds evidence that these halls were connected at a later time. An interior staircase on the north wall leads to the attic room formed by the east and west gables which creates a charming bedroom. The interior rooms feature random width pine floors, and a mantle in the east bedroom, of Section B (See Plan). The second floor of the music room creates space for the connecting halls, two baths and closet space and hall into the master bedroom suite which is composed of a sitting room above the original kitchen, Section A and a master bedroom above the recently constructed dining room addition.

A new service wing has also been added affording two extra rooms and bath on the second floor and kitchen and work space on the first floor.

This service wing is four bays wide and two bays deep with an exterior brick chimney on its south wall and rectangular entrance in the second bay of the east wall. A gabled roof hood covers this entrance.

A log cabin (see site plan) lies north of Section B. It is a two bay wide, two bay deep, gabled roof (running east-west) house of log. Its south wall holds a rectangular first floor double-hung window with six-over-six lites. Two first floor double-hung rectangular windows holding six-over-six lites rest in its east wall with a similar second floor window above. The west wall holds a sole first floor window similar to the others with a square boarded up second floor window above. The rectangular entrance door is located in the center of the north wall with a similar first floor window in the east bay.

An interesting one and a half story gabled roof (running east-west) two bay wide, one bay deep, brick (laid entirely in Flemish Bond), lies east of the recent service addition. It has a rectangular batten wood door centered into its north wall, with a rectangular wooden casement window in the east bay. A twenty lite rectangular first floor window is centered into its west wall. An exterior brick chimney is located on its east wall.

Barns and auxiliary buildings lie west of the log cabin and a lovely pond northwest of the house.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☒ 20th Century ☐
 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☐ 19th Century ☒

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1788

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	Education	Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Industry	losophy	Architecture
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention	Science	
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape	Sculpture	
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture	Social/Human-	
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature	itarian	
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military	Theater	
	Music	Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

New Year's Gift it appears, has been confused with the tract of land by that name near the Old Brick Church, now Christ Church, Guilford, which was owned by John Dorsey of Hockley, who also bought land in Western Howard County.

Warfield on p. 441 of his book, Founders of Anne Arundel And Howard Counties, Md., speaks of John Dorsey and Colonel Richard Dorsey, descendants, locating in sight of each other on land along the Westminster Road, now Route 97, from Glenwood to Roxbury. He goes on to say that John built his house near Mt. Calvary Church.

A keystone over the fireplace at Villa de Speranza has the date of 1788 inscribed upon it which would place the house in the correct time frame. The five bay wide, two and a half story high gabled roof brick part of the house looks to the northwest as Warfield describes.

Later the property was owned by Dennis P. Gaither and his son Danny. It passed through several hands to the present owners Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Della Ratta.

Architecturally it is significant as an example of how houses were begun simply and added to as need dictated and prosperity allowed. It is located on a northwest connecting road which may in the future be widened. Due to Villa de Speranza's proximity to this road, Route 97, and to the area included in a proposal for an extension of Triadelphia Reservoir, it is imperative that this house be considered for the National Register and any local landmark legislation, as well as inclusion into the State Critical Areas Program.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Villa de Speranza

Newman, Harold. Ann Arundel Gentry. Annapolis, 1971.

Warfield, J.D. Founders of Anne Arundel & Howard Counties, Md. Baltimore, 1973.

Interview with Mrs. Joseph Della Ratta at Villa de Speranza, March 11th and 14th, 1977. (774-7626)

Holland, Celia. Personal notes and papers collected from Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Della Ratta and from her own personal research.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

Please see Attachment I, Tax Map 21, P. 131 580/688 9.96 acres.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist

ORGANIZATION

Comprehensive Planning Section

DATE

STREET AND NUMBER:

3450 Courthouse Drive

CITY OR TOWN:

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

21043

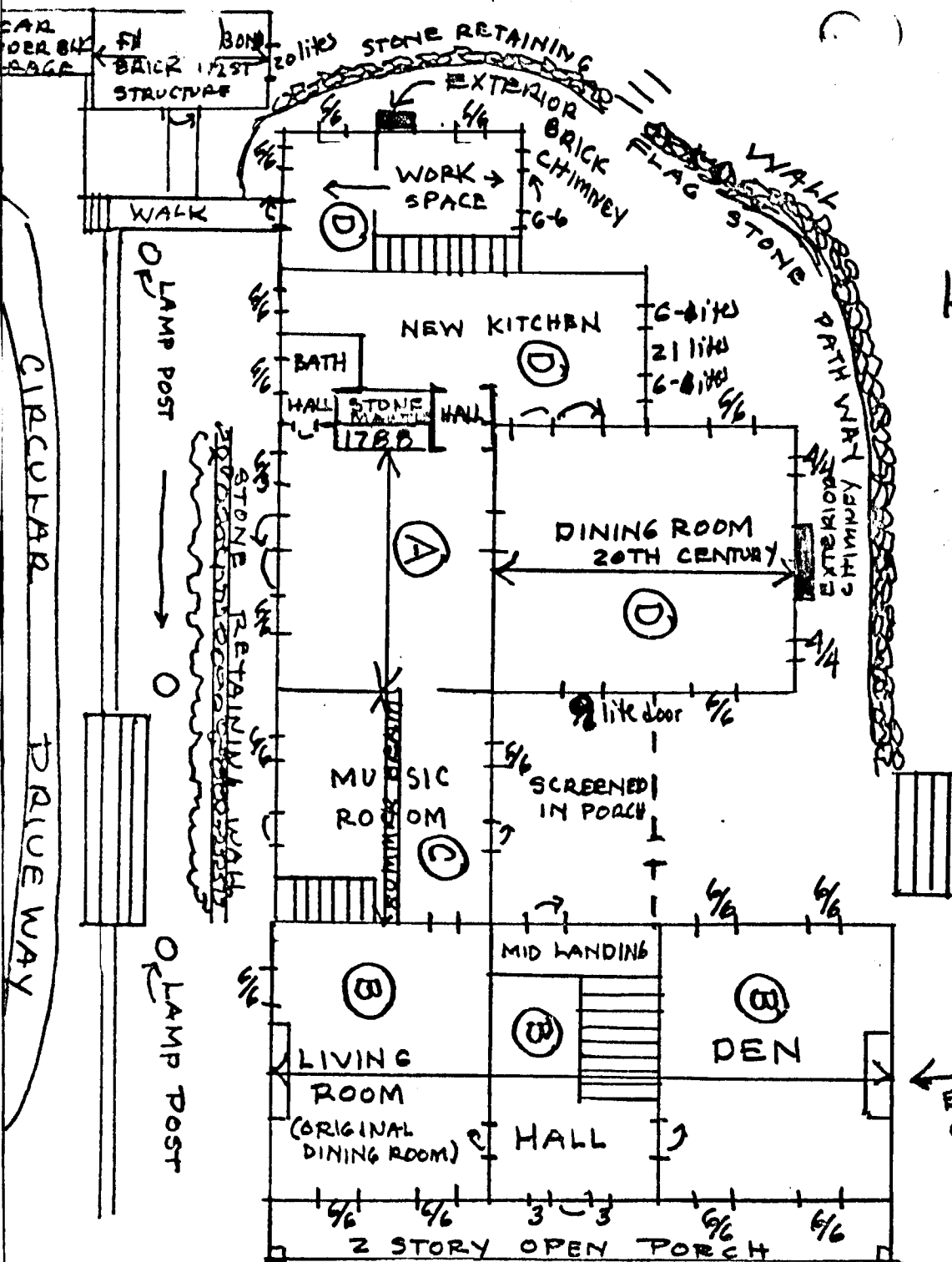
12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



□ BARN
9
AUXILIARY
BUILDINGS
LIE
WEST
OF
LOG
CABIN

GABLED ROOF
←
LOG CABIN

EARLY 19TH CENTURY

POST

ANNE B. DUNN
364/499 PAR II
86 81A
P.1

BEN D. L. P.
230/17H
2715A
P.3

Attachment I
HO-10 Villa De Speranza
Tax Map # 21

20-P. 20

EVERETT D. MARSTON & W.F.
& ROBT. W. DOUGLAS & W.F.
517/677

154.42A.
P.2

JOS. M.
DELLA RATTI
580/688
9.96A.
P.132

J. GARRETT
REILLY
257/518
278.63A.
P.13

VIRGIL
VAN STREET
217/79
8.77A
P.4

JOHN A. BEANE
217/100
246 HA
P.6

JOHN M.
BEANE
215/202
35 27A
P.26

M. GEMMILL
ELLINGSWORTH
230/459
81.48A.
P.23

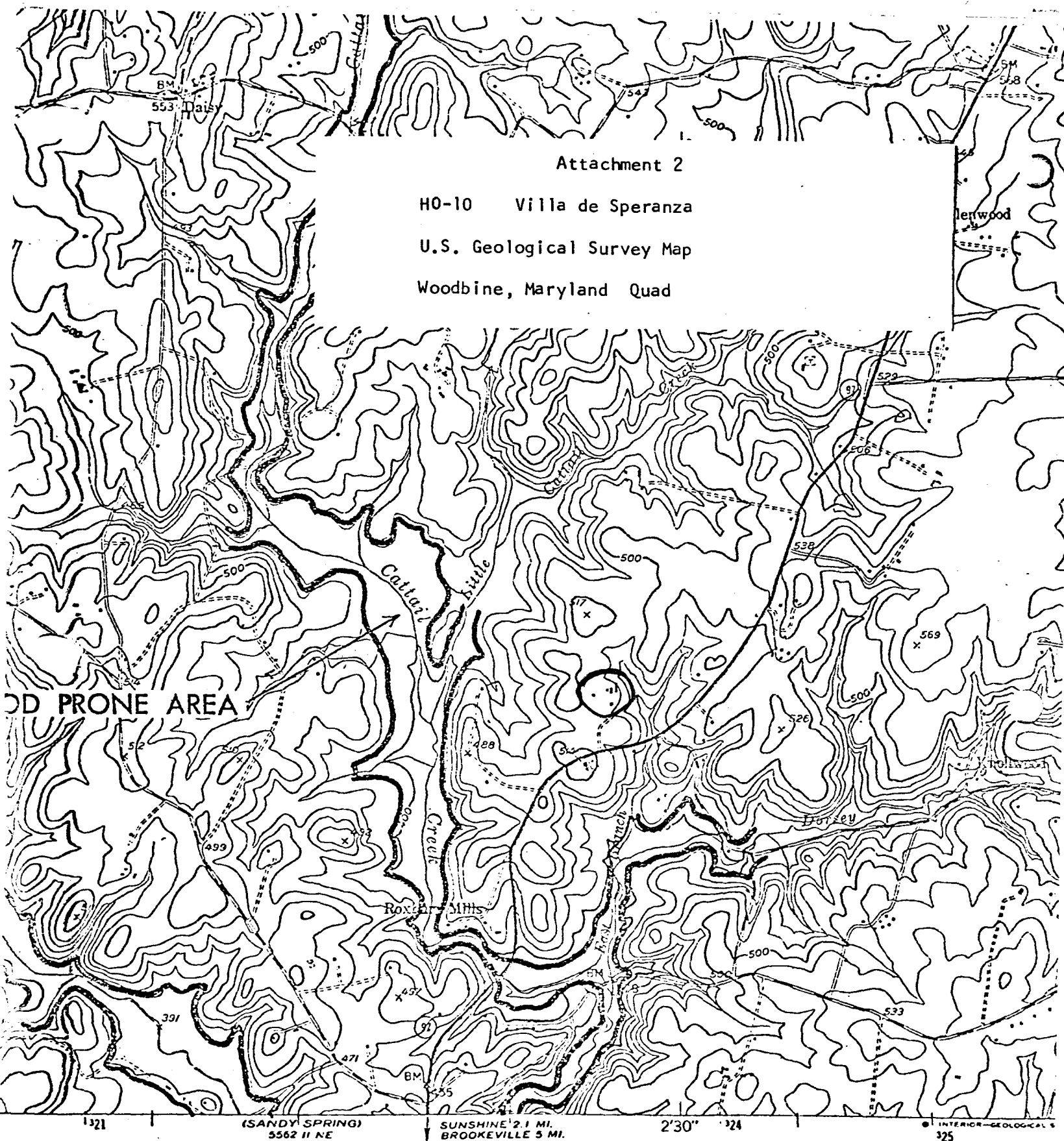
97

Attachment 2

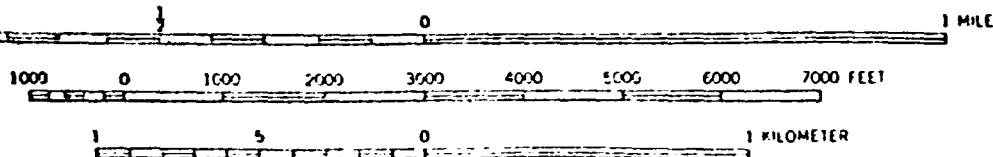
H0-10 Villa de Speranza

U.S. Geological Survey Map

Woodbine, Maryland Quad



SCALE 1:24000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL





CLEORA BARNES THOMPSON
PLANNING CONSULTANT
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY

HO-16 NEW YEAR'S GIFT
(NORTH)
MAR. 77